

The report outlined as the potential results of passage of the black bill more jobs and purchasing power without decrease in

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# The Labor News

Official Newspaper of the  
MAINE STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR  
Published Monthly  
THE MAINE STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR  
Under Supervision of Alfonso P. Young, Frank C. McDonald, Clarence R. Burrows, Charles McCall, Committee  
P. O. Box 24, Augusta, Me.

The Official Organ of Organized Labor in Maine devoted to the promotion of the welfare of the Wage Earner and the Prosperity of Industry Through a Better Understanding and Cooperation Between Employer and Employee.  
An exponent of a Healthy Deal for Both Sides Constructive in Policy Independent in Politics

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## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE MAINE STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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5th District—Chester Shepard, 36 Elmwood St., Bangor

APRIL, 1935

## Steel Would Prolong Depression

Threatens to Inaugurate Industrial War Should the Wagner Bill be Enacted.

The steel industry, speaking through the American Iron & Steel Institute, has formally denounced the Wagner bill on labor disputes. It declares that the purpose of the bill is to "create a monopoly in favor of professional labor unions." The bill would "strangle" the company union, the industry further declares, and the closed shop is "un-American," and contrary to the wishes of the employees.

One would think that the employees might be left to express their wishes in their own way; but the leaders of the steel industry do not stop with that. They declare that they object to the whole principle of majority rule embodied in the bill.

"The bill provides," says this pronouncement of the steel baron, "that the representatives of a majority of the employees in any unit shall be the exclusive representatives of all the employees in such unit. The steel industry believes that such majority rule is unfair to union and non-union groups alike."

Probably the steel magnates did not realize it, but they expressed the reactionary tyranny of all time. There are only two kinds of rule; majority rule and minority rule; for an absolute despotism is simply a regime under which a minority of one wields all authority. If the majority of steel workers are not allowed to choose their own representatives, then clearly a minority will have to do so, and it hardly needs saying that this minority will be one acceptable to the management, and under constant pressure to do what the management wishes. Why not throw off the mask, and say frankly that the steel barons mean to maintain autocracy in their industry.

The steel industry not only denounces, but threatens.

The enactment (the Wagner bill) would set the stage for a conflict which would injure the relations between employees and employers for all time, and seriously retard national recovery.

In plainer words, the men who control the steel industry write themselves down as ready to prolong the depression, and inaugurate an industrial war of which no one can see the end, rather than bargain with representatives of their workers chosen just as every member of Congress, every legislator, governor, city councilman in the United States is chosen, and even the President of the United States himself.

At least and in the American people must know what the steel trust wants.

## Racketeering in Railroad Financing

Nefarious Practices Leads to Demand for Higher Rates and Resistance Against Payment of Excessive Wages to Employees—More Than This, Railroads Are Menaced With Bankruptcy.

The proposed Congressional investigation of railroad financing by big money lenders promises to reveal the remarkable extent to which our railroads have been made the tool of racketeering concerns to the detriment of the railroad properties, the general public and millions of railroad employees.

An illustration of this racketeering was told a Senate Committee by J. L. Kraus, a New York lawyer, who in 1932 represented a group which petitioned for a receivership of the St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad.

Mr. Kraus testified that Speyer & Co., New York financiers for the Spisco, compelled that road to purchase in 1927 through a joint account 275,000 shares of the Rock Island Railroad for speculative purposes, \$20,000 shares going to the bankers. The block of stock was enough to corner the market. Speyer & Co. sold their 92,000 shares during the period when the price rose from \$50 to \$750 a share. Prior to this deal, Mr. Kraus said, Speyer & Co. had bought 11,000 shares and sold them at a 15-point profit on the day when the \$75,000 share transaction was culminated.

Mr. Kraus stated that Speyer & Co. had bid

representative, R. N. Brown, made chairman of the Spisco's board, and indicated that Brown was the concern's agent for putting through the stock purchase deal, which was effected without the knowledge of President J. M. Kurn of the Spisco.

Later, when the Spisco secured control of the Rock Island, Mr. Kraus stated, Brown was made chairman of that road's executive committee at a salary of \$50,000 a year. The job had paid no salary prior to Brown's taking it over.

People familiar with the railroad situation claim a Congressional investigation of railroad financing by big money lenders will reveal general racketeering of the sort described by Mr. Kraus. This nefarious practice has loaded the railroads up with so many bonds that it is difficult for them to pay their interest. This difficulty also leads them to demand higher rates, to the injury of the shipping and traveling public, and is the major force which motivates railroads to resist paying their employees decent wages and providing shorter hours without wage cuts. More than this, the railroads are menaced with bankruptcy.

Congress should authorize the investigation and go to the bottom of this racketeering in railroad financing.

## CHILD LABOR ACTIVITIES TO GO ON

Failure of the Child Labor Amendment to secure a sufficient number of ratifications this year to make it a part of the United States Constitution means that the fight for the amendment will have to go on for a year or two longer. Labor and other friends of the amendment are not going to abandon it, not by a long shot, and can be depended upon to press the fight until victory is won.

Approval of the amendment by only four States this year while at least 16 have rejected it, shows the need for further educational work on its behalf. Apparently foes of the measure have been able to fool a lot of legislators into believing the amendment is an undesirable thing, instead of the good thing that it is.

States that have refused to ratify the amendment will not succeed in permanently blocking it. In the end, the amendment will become a part of the Constitution, to the benefit of the nation and those states that have opposed it will not have accomplished anything except to write themselves down as having tried in vain to stop progress.

## Pres. Unimpressed by Propaganda

Says Holding Companies Circular and Verbal Persuasion on Members of Congress Thoroughly Misrepresents Purpose of Proposed Law.

President Roosevelt's message to Congress urging the enactment of legislation curbing public utility companies and criticizing propaganda organized by company executives to defeat the legislation, was regarded so favorably by Congress that 50,000 copies of the message were ordered printed in order that Senators and Representatives might send it to their constituents. The President's message has been greeted with great interest, the fight being waged against public utility holding company legislation. I have watched the case of investors' money to make the investors believe that the efforts of the Government to protect him are designed to defraud him. I have seen much of the propaganda prepared against such legislation—even down to mimeograph sheets of instructions for propaganda to exploit the most far-fetched and fallacious fears.

Asserting that he was as "unimpressed" by this propaganda as he was by "the similar effort to stir up the country against the securities exchange bill last Spring," the President claimed the chain letter, circular and verbal pressure on members of Congress so thoroughly misrepresents the purpose of the proposed law that the people should "understand once and for all the actual facts of the case." He continued:

"Such a measure will not destroy legitimate business or wholesome and productive investment. It will not destroy a penny of actual value of those operating properties which holding companies now control and which holding company securities represent insofar as they have any value. On the contrary, it will surround the necessary reorganization of the holding company with safeguards which will in fact protect the investor."

The President charged that the devices inaugurated by many utility executives "have given tyrannical power and exclusive opportunity to a favored few" and made "once traditionally independent owners of their own businesses helplessly dependent for their daily bread upon the favor of a very few, who through devices such as holding companies, have taken for themselves unwarranted economic power." He declared that the holding company legislation was in the interest of the real investor as well as of the rate payer.

Observers predict that the message will greatly facilitate the speedy enactment of the law which the Administration claims is designed to remove recognized evils of holding company organizations.

## Fair Trial Ordered for Scottsboro Boys

Supreme Court Instructs Alabama Authorities Have Not Dealt Fairly With Boys Accused of Criminal Assault.

The U. S. Supreme Court has reversed the state courts of Alabama in two of the world famous Scottsboro cases on the ground that they did not have a fair trial. Race prejudice was shown by the fact that for at least 24 years, no Negro has been called for jury service in either Jackson County, where the crime is alleged to have been committed, nor in Morgan County, to which a charge

of venue was taken. The Supreme Court had previously reversed the conviction of seven of the defendants on the ground that they had been deprived of their right to counsel.

If there is any sound sense available in Alabama for the purpose of this case, the indictments against these Negro boys will be dismissed. The case against them is utterly discredited, not by the intense prejudice shown, but by the fact that one of the two white women whom the Negroes are charged with having raped, repudiated her first testimony at a later trial, and denied any assault.

Any further pushing of this case will be mere obstinacy in a course that has proved stupid as well as wrong. And Alabama in general, and Jackson County in particular, cannot afford to spend money in the expensive luxury of "saving face" for their officials.

## Taxes and More Taxes

That is the Great Cry Just Now, and One Reason Why Coming Prosperity is Delayed.

Everybody is crying against the possibility of more taxes. They say we are already taxed beyond our ability to pay, and that between Federal, State and municipal taxes, the governments are taking additional means for piling on more taxes.

The business man is desperate. The real estate owner is discouraged. The worker, whose entire savings are invested in his home, sees it gradually slipping away from him.

Realizing the necessity for greater contributions from business and real estate owners to meet the requirements, national, state and municipal officials are urging additional means for getting more taxes. There are 30,000,000 people dependent on the government for relief, and the question arises as to how the government is going to provide work and relief unless provision is made to secure money through taxation—the only means whereby these requirements can be met.

Merchants and consumers are fighting the imposition of sales taxes, because, they say, the burden will fall upon them. Industry is fighting for lower taxes as a means for protection against foreign competition. Property owners complain because of present high assessed valuations, and for this purpose have organized associations whose purpose is to fight for reductions, and against further increases.

How to solve this problem is taxing the ability of our legislators and all upon whom rests the responsibility of satisfying the various elements who seek to reduce taxes, and at the same time make it possible for the government to provide for the nation's great army of unemployed.

The trouble is that the people do not seem to be thoroughly acquainted with the present situation. They do not seem to understand that the country is undergoing the worst times ever experienced in its history.

The manufacturer, merchant, real estate operator, and others who made a lot of money during the years of prosperity, seem unwilling to stand their share of the burden caused by the depression. For the most part, these "in the dumps" prior to the inauguration of the NRA in 1933 this great movement, which made possible huge loans to the railroads and other large corporations, insurance companies, banks, and to merchants and property holders, while not having brought complete recovery, made it possible for them not only to remain in business, but through the distribution of billions of government funds, increased the purchasing power of the nation's working people sufficiently to place some of the major industries on nearly a pre-depression profitable basis.

The trouble with most business men is that they fail to realize that we have been going through a business and financial crisis such as the world had never before experienced. Throughout the war years, and the boom times that followed until 1928, profits in all of the nation's major industries were enormous. This brought about the establishment of new standards. Executives and subordinates were paid excessively high salaries. Millions were spent on constructing or remodeling plants which, of course, added materially to overhead costs. To maintain these enormous costs when the crash came in 1929, naturally proved a serious problem.

The so-called "captains of industry," those whom were looked upon as supermen, were completely baffled. They saw their volumes dropping off, with no means of securing funds from banks, and were frantic—fearing bankruptcy as a result.

Then came Roosevelt and a Congress that was determined to meet this great emergency. The program outlined by the President through the National Recovery Act was received with plaudits by the so-called supermen. Cooperation with the first wave was pledged, and this continued until conditions began to improve, when the "captains of industry," through their political henchmen, who a few months previous had been suppliant and fearful, began to balk progress by fighting Section 7 (a) and others, because these interfered in the conduct of their business of making profits.

Mind you, they were, they were just recovering from a near state of bankruptcy. They had been sided through the operation of the NRA, and as soon as they began to "see daylight"—started their nefarious game to kill the goose that laid the golden egg.

The constantly mounting taxes which the entire nation is called upon to provide, are primarily to meet the tremendous outlay of money needed to finance this great emergency. Billions have already been expended and many more billions are

needed to finance the proposition for how long God only knows.

We all abhor taxes. The writer himself, at this very moment, is worried as to how taxes on his property are to be met. But he realizes, as every other citizen should, that a great emergency exists; that provision must be made by Federal, State and municipal governments to care for 11 millions of unemployed workers, with some 30 millions of dependents, and that all must exercise patience and have implicit confidence in those whose every effort is directed toward solving this great and momentous problem.

Accumulating wealth as was possible during pre-depression times, is an impossibility. One must be satisfied with making a comfortable living for himself and his dependents. No matter how much we holler about taxes, the fact remains that we are up against a stiff proposition, and that this is the only means whereby it can be met.

The World War cost many billions, and we paid the bill without a murmur. The present is considered as a greater emergency, because it means the sustenance of millions of people who are without means of support, and the only way of meeting this is through the imposition of taxes.

## Japs are Jugglers But Also Diplomats

Successful in Achieving Victory in Orient, the Little Yellow Jugglers are Balancing Now Invading America's Yacht Market and Boldly Claim Justification.

From early childhood, our people have been amused, and somewhat astonished, at the feats of the Japanese juggler and ball player. The late war was the feat of keeping a series of glass balls, daggers and lighted torches circling about in the air, with never a slip, or walking a tight-rope blindfolded, we have to hand to it the Japanese. Their sense of equilibrium is so very delicate that the inversion of the pyramid on a pin-point will play for the Nipponese performer.

And that suggests a reason why Japan has been able to bluff, or bully, the whole world and have her own way, both with the domestic affairs of nations and with their international affairs as well.

For it was "at the insistence of the Japanese"—so officially stated—that poor deluded Uncle Sam gave up his right to further fortify the Philippines, thereby making a gift of those possessions to the far-sighted Japanese. Also, by sinking the better part of our then incomparable navy, in 1911, we further renounced any effective effort to retain those possessions in the event of a naval contest with Japan. Now, after having dismembered China, bought away the Chinese-Eastern Railway from her once-defeated Russia, Japan has only the United States and England to keep on bluffing before taking supremacy of the Orient.

Seeing that the territory of Japan is not larger than the State of California, but that she has hoodwinked the United States, overpowered China and brought Russia to a condition of ineffective diplomatic protest, it is a great victory for the Japanese juggler! China has 450 millions of population, Russia 175 millions and the United States 120 millions, yet Japan, with a population of only 70 millions, is holding them all at bay—with characteristic juggling expertness. This is a case of the tail wagging the dog, several dogs in fact. It is a sad commentary on Occidental blundering obtuseness and the lack of anything like diplomatic rationality. A little more and we may be asking Japan for permission to navigate the Pacific, which we seem to be doing at present under the tacitly intimated suzerainty of Tokio!

Alas, for the days of Paul Jones, Capt. Jack Barry and Commodore Perry. Those men would have known how to treat the Japanese juggler, whether in war or statecraft. The present alibi of sentimentalism must make these historic naval luminaries turn in their graves.

Having now achieved a diplomatic victory in the Orient, Japan is now invading the American textile market, the ruinous effect of which is testified to by closing mills and increasing unemployment. In diplomacy, naval strategy and now in international economics, Japan trumps Uncle Sam handily. It was Ben Franklin who sagely remarked: "Experience keeps a dear school, but fools will learn in none other."

## NEED WAGNER BILL

There was a humorous quip in an utterance of Chairman Francis Biddle, speaking on the newly inaugurated "Labor Scenes" radio program:

"If I seem to speak of protecting the workers, it is because the workers are the ones who need protection. No one ever heard of a worker firing the boss for belonging to the National Manufacturers' Association."

He was right. No one ever caught a labor union sitting in as a member of the NMA and reporting back to headquarters as to who was there and who was "agitating" for longer-hours and lower wages.

Another phase of Mr. Biddle's speech clearly set out the need for the Wagner Bill. There must be some board with power of enforcement of the decisions, or the entire recovery plan will collapse. The Administration sees this, but how about Congress?

"If a man is generous to strangers, it shows that he is a citizen of the world, and his heart is not island, cut off from other islands, but a continent that joins them."—Bacon.  
"Why should there not be a patient confidence in the ultimate justice of the people? Is there any better or equal hope in the world?"—Abraham Lincoln.

## NRA's Strength and Weakness

Senate Hearings Show That Only Where Labor Has Been in Charge, Fair Chance to Cooperate Have Codes Been Successful.

(From Labor's Official Newspaper of the NRA, Brotherhoods.)  
Here are the outstanding results so far developed by the Senate Finance Committee hearings into the workings of the NRA:

Where labor has been given an adequate voice in the framing and administration of codes, the NRA has been successful. Where labor has been ridiculed, wages lowered, workers have freely joined the unions of their choice, employers have prospered and the consumer has been protected against unseasonable price advances.

Where employers have been given a free hand to draft and administer codes, the situation is exactly reversed—consumers have been robbed through price-fixing, the NRA has been a wholesale cheating on hours and wages, the workers' right to organize has been annihilated, the employer who did not belong to the "inner circle" of business recovery has been subjected to persecution of the most serious character and the entire process of business recovery has been materially slowed up.

NRA officials have been able to point with pride to the workings of the first class of codes—unfortunately a small number—but they have been constantly forced to make humiliating apologies for the operation of the latter.

During the early days of the business recovery NRA, the NRA and sentiment was rapidly developing in Congress in favor of refusing to extend the NRA. The NRA was turned down by the Senate, began to wobble, and the NRA was abandoned. The NRA was completed where workers have been given something like a square deal. Where the NRA is not a square deal, it is a disgrace. Congress will vote for a two-year extension of the NRA, but the credit must go to those industries in which collective bargaining is an accomplished fact.

However, it will not be sufficient to merely extend the NRA. In administering the NRA, the NRA administration must not repeat the blunders of the past.

Permanent success can only be achieved by a frank recognition that the NRA is a national emergency. In other words, that the interests of the consumers, the employers and the workers must be satisfied. That means that all three must have a voice in framing the codes, and that the NRA should be permitted to "tip over the apple" in an effort to advance his selfish interests.

## LABOR QUERIES

Questions and Answers on Labor: What is the purpose of the NRA? What are its aims and program? Who is in the ranks of the Organized Workers, etc., etc.

Q.—Who said, "It is a widely accepted principle that the Government, as employer, should not discriminate against any race or color, and as an example should have a policy of non-discrimination in its practical conditions of employment?"  
A.—The American Federation of Labor, at its 1934 convention.

Q.—Do trade unionists head the Chest for the Liberation of the Oppressed Workers of Europe?  
A.—Yes. The American Federation of Labor, chairman; Matthew Wolf, vice-chairman; Joseph N. Weber, secretary; David J. Dubinsky, treasurer; and Harry Lee Franklin, executive secretary.

Q.—Who is said: "Labor is the father of all we live by?"  
A.—Sir William Penty.

Q.—Has labor been in favor of the election of Federal judges by the people?  
A.—The American Federation of Labor went on record for the election of Federal judges in 1906 and again in 1927.

Q.—When did the American Federation of Labor first ask a Government census of the unemployed?  
A.—The American Federation of Labor first asked a Government census of the unemployed in 1914, and that year declared it of vast importance to ascertain in the census the number of idle men, and the duration of their lack of employment.

Q.—What work is done by members of the International Association of Signigraphers?  
A.—One process to plate printing, which is used almost exclusively in the printing of paper money. All the operators engaged in the work are members of the IAS, making it a 100 per cent organization.

Q.—Who said: "Taxation should be aimed at acquired wealth and not at the consuming power of the nation's workers?"  
A.—The American Federation of Labor, at its 1934 convention in 1931.

Q.—What has the union label been called?  
A.—Symbol of fairness; guardian of workers' rights; friend alike of man, woman and child.

Q.—What is the oldest labor organization in the world?  
A.—The Journeymen Tailors' Union of America, organized in 1833.

Q.—Does organized labor favor equal work for men doing the same work as men?  
A.—Emphatically yes. "Women should have the same status and pay for equal work performed," the American Federation of Labor has declared.

Q.—Who were the "ladies of Lowell" in labor history?  
A.—Women and girl textile workers of Lowell who went on strike at the signal of a warped price bonnet in no island, cut off from other islands, but a continent that joins them."—Bacon.

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**President Roosevelt Adds Philip Murray, Mine Workers' Vice-President, to Board of Seven—Richberg Named as Acting Chairman—A. F. of L. Favors Extension of the NRA and So Tells President at Conference.**



LE  
MIRACLE

House Labor Committee, takes a conservative view of the situation says he intends to bend every effort

It is necessary that the War Labor Relations bill be made permissive and by this means possible to properly enforce the law which protects workers who are members of bona fide unions.

Employers are greatly opposed to this law as it will compel

all types of workmen had been organized into the navy yards. The workmen were not trade unions, but had been increasing in number. Justing those questions from time to time arise. Judicial establishment.

The Metal Trades International convention had given approval to the regulation shop committee election every yard there was.

Furthermore, paid that commandants to hear representatives of employees who themselves of the yard. The commandants receive and to hear of the craft yard in connection with the yard. The endeavors to

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some years, he became a member of the executive board of the United Mine Workers of America in 1912.

House Labor Committee, take  
conservative view of the situa-  
and says he intends to bend eve-

many cases the law has been created by manufacturers and labor unions, having been greatly bettered by the New Deal, are now based on general principles.

It is necessary that the Labor Relations Bill be made a statute and by this it is possible to properly amend the law which protects the rights of labor. Laborers are members of bona fide unions.

Employers are great. This law as it will be

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Furthermore, that command to hear reproaches from employees who the players of the command receive and to officers of the yard in connection with the yard.

paragraph 3 provides that the committee is to receive and consider the views and suggestions of representatives of the employees. The committee itself is not to be a bargaining agent. In other words, the committee is instructed to "hear the national officials employed in the connection with questions of conditions of employment in the industry and to bring about a satisfactory settlement."

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MIRACLE NO. 5. "Waterless" cooking in ordinary utensils or pans produces healthier, tastier foods.

**MIRACLE NO. 6.** Vegetables, meat, dessert can be cooked in one pot if (if it's cooker) without watching or stirring.

**NOW**  
is the  
To Send Y

Seven of the eight orders issued by the Secretary of the Board deal with shop contracts for various purposes. These are reported by the Board of Review as follows: The third paragraph of the orders definitely states the understanding of trade agreements, and it is heretofore common

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